

Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 NIC-01 IO-12 RSR-01 /118 W
----- 052003

R 091023 Z APR 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 276

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IZ

SUBJECT: GOI POLICY TOWARD MINORITIES

1. PRESS REPORTED APRIL 5 THAT GROUP OF FORTY- FIVE EXPATRIATES FROM DETROIT AND CHICAGO WILL VISIT IRAQ APRIL 16 TO WITNESS GAINS REALIZED SINCE JULY 17 REVOLUTION. FIRST GROUP OF EXPATRIATES FROM U. S. AND CANADA ARE NOW CONCLUDING ONE MONTH VISIT.

2. COMMENT: THESE ARE ASSYRIAN GROUPS BROUGHT OVER AT GOI INVITATION FOR OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING TOURISM, SHINING IRAQ' S IMAGE, AND HELPING REVERSE BRAIN DRAIN. VISITS COULD CONCEIVABLY BE RELATED TO CURRENT RUMOR THAT GOI PLANNING TO GIVE" ASSYRIANS" SOME KIND OF AUTONOMY. SINCE SYRIAN SPEAKING COMMUNITY, INCLUDING BOTH NESTORIANS AND CHALDEANS, NUMBERS ONLY ABOUT 200,000 AND NOT NEARLY AS COHESIVE AS KURDS, GOI PERHAPS THINKING OF APPLYING FORMULA TO THEM THAT IT COULD THEN CLAIM WAS MODEL FOR ALL MINORITIES AND TRY TO FORCE IT ON KURDS.

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3. IF DEPARTMENT HAS OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH
REPRESENTATIVES OF ASSYRIAN COMMUNITY IN U. S., WE WOULD BE
INTERESTED
TO KNOW WHAT IS BEHIND GOI EFFORT ON THEIR BEHALF.
LOWRIE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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30 JUN 2005

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To: AMMAN
ANKARA
BEIRUT
MOSCOW
NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC
TEHRAN

Type: TE

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